

WRCTC Capital Credits and Allocation

WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS ANYWAY?!
 In contrast to investor-owned utilities, which operate for profit, West River Cooperative Telephone Cooperative Company operates as a member-owned organization. The Co-op distributes profits, referred to as “margins” in the cooperative world, back to the members.

MEMBERSHIP:
 When you connect to internet or telephone service with WRCTC, you become a member of the cooperative.

INVESTMENT:
 A capital credit account is established in your name and West River Cooperative Telephone Company uses this to record your investment in the cooperative.

ALLOCATION:
 Any funds remaining after all expenses have been paid for the year are allocated to your capital credit account. Allocation amounts were documented on your August bill. Capital Credits are based on how much your monthly bill is (also known as patronage), so your allocation may vary each year.

WRCTC sets aside your allocation into a separate account to be used as operating capital for reliability improvements and maintenance over a period of years.

RETIREMENT:
 A retirement is the amount you receive back as a capital credit refund. It is a percentage of your total capital credit balance. The amount retired is decided annually by the board of directors based on the financial needs of the cooperative.

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT:
 It's important to keep your address updated if you move. We want to make sure you receive your capital credit check as they are retired in the future.

2023 ALLOCATION:
 The board approved allocating \$2,587,497 back to our members, which is 96.8% of the 2023 patronage!

Members 12760 212th Ave, Meadow; who had service in 2023 with active accounts saw their allocation totals on the August 1st bill. Inactive members will receive an allocation statement.

2024 CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT:
 The WRCTC Board of Directors approved to retire the remaining 2010 capital credits in the amount of \$914,259. Members receiving a return below \$150, will see a credit on their October bill. Anything over \$150, will be retired in a check. If you were a member in 2010, and have since closed your membership, checks will be mailed to the address we have on file.

WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2024
WRCTC WAREHOUSE

5 PM: REGISTRATION
5 PM: PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER
6 PM: BUSINESS MEETING

MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A \$20 BILL CREDIT FOR ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING!

MEMBER MUST BE PRESENT TO REGISTER AND RECEIVE BILL CREDIT.

GRAND PRIZES:
5-\$100 CASH PRIZE WINNERS!
KIDS GRAND PRIZE - IPAD!
\$250 SCHOLARSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO 2025 GRADUATES ONLY
GRADUATE MUST ATTEND WITH GUARDIAN WHOM IS A MEMBER OF WRCTC

New WRCTC Members

Buffalo Teigen, Jane	605-375-3259
Lemmon Knoke, Richard	605-374-4656
Newell Thiessen, Jonathan Wood, Colin & Darcy	605-456-2157 605-456-3853

Taxes Paid in 2023

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's 2023 four percent gross revenue tax amounted to \$341,029. This tax is based on the total amount paid by the members for telephone service in each school district. The following breakdown shows how the taxes were paid to each county and school district for 2023.

COUNTY	
Butte County	\$82,851
Corson County	8,113
Harding County	70,664
Meade County	4,828
Perkins County	173,448
Ziebach County	1,125
TOTAL	\$341,029

SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Newell	\$82,660
Lemmon	116,251
Harding County	70,618
Bison	63,142
Faith	3,021
McIntosh	272
Sturgis (Meade County)	4,200
Belle Fourche	865
TOTAL	\$341,029

Find Your Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you find YOUR address, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$20 will then be deducted off your next telephone bill. Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count.
Deadline is September 25, 2024.

\$20
bill credit

Seim Celebrates 20 Years



This month, Tally Seim celebrates 20 years with the Cooperative! Tally began her career on September 13, 2004, as the front desk receptionist. Since then, she has held many different titles, including accountant, marketing technician/specialist, and her current position as Member

Relations Supervisor, which she has held since 2014. Currently, Tally oversees the Member Relations Representatives and billing systems. She prepares monthly reports for Grand Electric and WRCTC, and submits regulatory data requests. Tally also processes 911 records, estate retirements, and capital credit allocations. She assists with the Annual Meeting preparations and other events as needed. Additionally, Tally answers phones and creates service orders for members.

Tally's favorite part of her job is enhancing the members' experience. She enjoys utilizing software to create a more user-friendly format and rolling out the latest features to educate members on services that improve their experience with the Cooperative.

Throughout her career, Tally has been deeply involved in the community. She has coached youth T-ball, coach pitch, and girls' softball, as well as volleyball at Bison High School for three years and girls' basketball for five years. Last December, Tally and her family moved to Lemmon, where she has since stepped back from her extracurricular PO Box 361, Newell; activities to enjoy attending her daughters' activities as a spectator. Tally and her family are members of the New Hope Worship Center in Lemmon.

Tally and her husband of 21 years, Jed, ranch in the Lemmon area. They have two wonderful daughters, Jayda and Paisley. The Seim family loves spending time boating and camping at Shadehill and attending their daughters' sporting events. Congratulations on your 20 years, Tally!



West River Cooperative Telephone Company will be closed Monday, September 2, 2024 in observance of Labor Day.



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West River Cooperative Telephone Company Calling on You



Todd Williamson, Sandi Helms, Joe Burke, Greg Fried & Connie Bootz pose for a photo before serving starts.

Butte/Lawrence County Fair Supper

August was a busy month! On August 1st, West River Cooperative Telephone Company employees and directors traveled to the Butte/Lawrence County Fair to serve supper alongside Butte Electric Cooperative. Directors: Sandi Helms, Greg Fried, Joe Burke, Todd Williamson, and employees: Connie Bootz, Darin Prella, Josh Mackaben, Gavin Nelson and Brooke Schecher, helped serve the delicious dinner of roast beef sandwiches, beans, chips and lemonade.

It was an extremely hot day, but that didn't slow down fairgoers! A little over 1,000 people were served on Thursday evening. It's incredibly rewarding working with another Cooperative 206 6th St. E Apt #18, Lemmon; to host a fun event for our members! Thank you to all who attended!



Fairgoers wait in line to be served by WRCTC and Butte Electric.

Josh Mackaben, Gavin Nelson & Darin Prella break for a photo.

Tailgate Parties

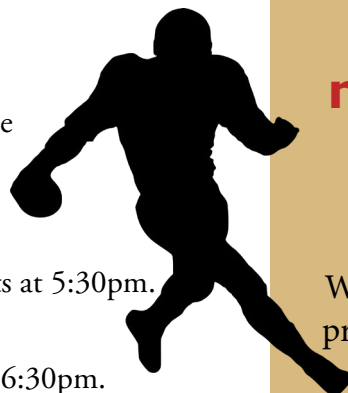
Grand Electric Cooperative and West River Cooperative Telephone Company are at it again! They are teaming up to serve a meal at football games in the communities we serve!

September 6, 2024 – Lemmon-McIntosh vs. Potter County
Tailgate begins at 5:00pm at the Lemmon Football field. Game starts at 5:30pm.

September 13, 2024 – Faith vs. Timber Lake
Tailgate begins at 6:00pm at the Faith Football field. Game starts at 6:30pm.

September 20, 2024 – Harding County/Bison vs. Lemmon-McIntosh
Tailgate begins at 5:30pm at the Harding County Football field. Game starts at 6:00pm.

**Game times are subject to change based on game official availability. Please check our Facebook page 18382 Bakke Rd, Shadehill; for updates. Serving will start 30 minutes prior to game time and will continue until 30 minutes into the game.



Changes needed for the 2025 Directory

We are currently in the process of updating the West River Cooperative Telephone Directory for 2025.

Anyone who would like changes made to their directory listing should contact our office no later than September 13, 2024.

Individuals, organizations or churches with an additional listing for their employees or pastors should contact our business office to verify that our current information is correct. Any additional listing for residential and business members will be charged \$1.00 per month per listing. Any questions or changes should be directed to our business office by dialing 777 from your land line or 605-244-5213 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also submit changes online at www.wrctc.coop.



WRCTC Board Vice President Garrett Schweitzer presents a \$500 check to Round-Up Recipient, Harlan Hess.

Power of Pennies:

In June, the West River Cooperative Round-Up Committee shared recommendations for those whom they believed would benefit from receiving Round-Up funds. Thanks to our generous members rounding up their bills, as this money can be a lot of help for those receiving the funds.

Each check distributed brings a wave of emotions. Whether it's disbelief, tear-filled eyes, or pure joy, every penny makes a meaningful difference to those facing hardships.

The individuals chosen to receive \$500 were Robert Block, Lemmon; Connie Hay, Lemmon; Harlan Hess, Lemmon; Dale Rice, Lemmon; Tanya Sandgren, Lemmon; Sandra Sainsbury, Camp Crook, and Craig Pietz, Bison. As a West River Cooperative Telephone Company member, you can "round up" your bill to the nearest dollar. Each penny collected goes into a separate account, and the funds are distributed twice a year. The most it can cost is \$0.99 per month!

The Round-Up Program began in 1998 and has 11586 Us Hwy 85, Buffalo; since donated \$127,160 to Cooperative members and organizations!

If you know someone deserving of Round-Up monies or an organization with a big project planned, don't hesitate to contact one of our committee members. Committee members are Pat Dalzell, Lemmon; Cheryl Turbiville, Camp Crook, and Paula Reedy, Vale. Please provide the full name of the person or organization and explain why you feel they deserve the funds.

If you are interested in helping others by rounding your bill to the nearest dollar, please fill out the Round-Up form on page 4 and mail it to: WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620, or contact our office at 605-244-5211.

Want to serve on the Round-Up Committee? We are currently looking for more committee

members! We still need members from the Bison and Buffalo areas! Committee members will serve for the remainder of the term and will meet via conference call or email. Committee Members will discuss and nominate people in their respective communities they feel would greatly benefit from receiving Round-Up funds. If you want to serve on the Round-Up Committee, please get in touch with Brooke at 605-244-5213.



Vice President Schweitzer presents a \$500 check to Round-Up Recipient, Robert Block.

Power of Pennies Continued:

Dale and Sharon Rice pose for a photo after finding out they were selected for Round-Up Funds.



Lyle and Sandra Sainsbury smile for a picture after receiving their Round-Up Funds.



Thank you very much for the help we received. It is greatly appreciated. It is a blessing to be living in such a great area where people care about all. We thank you all! God Bless. - Dale and Sharon Rice

Dear WRCTC Members, I would like to thank WRCTC and it's members for their kindness in choosing me as a recipient of the Round-Up Program. I pray for healing for all those with medical issues. What an amazing community we live in. God Bless each of you. Thanks again. - Connie Hay

Want to participate in our Round-Up program?

Please fill out the form below and return it with your bill. Or, give us a call at 605-244-5213 and a Member Relations Representative would be happy to assist you!

WRCTC'S ROUND-UP PROGRAM THE POWER OF CHANGE GIVE A LITTLE...GAIN A LOT!

As a WRCTC member, you have a unique opportunity to support Round-Up, a program that provides financial support to Community members facing hardship or an organization in need of financial support. By signing this form you authorize West River Cooperative Telephone Company to Round-Up your telecommunications bill each month to the nearest dollar. Send this form back with your monthly bill or mail to: PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

Name(s) on Account: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____

2024 VOTING DELEGATE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that _____
(print name of voting delegate)

of _____, or _____
(address) *(print name of additional delegate)*

of _____, is authorized to represent
(address)

_____ at the Annual Meeting of West River
(organization name) Cooperative Telephone Company to be held Monday, October 7, 2024, in Bison, South Dakota.

(signature of President or Secretary)

(printed name)

Date _____